Subject: Willimantic (CT) tokens

Reynolds, Charles A.
[Willimantic, CT]

1937-1938

Willimantic Conn, Dec. 14-1937

Mr. Rowland Wood,
Gen. Am. Numismatic Soc.
156 St. & Bway. N.Y.C.

Dear Mr. Wood

I have been looking for two cards or tokens, "Hettick & Gulley" # 2111 & #2113 which I am informed are from Willimantic, and up to the present time, I have failed to locate them. Will you please supply the above numbers for me.

Can you also inform where I can procure a set of them. Price is no object.

As a matter of fact, I am quite sure that we could easily design at least half a dozen others here if we had them. The chief reason, being that they were loose tokens and the present group of collectors in ~~town~~ all want them badly. Shall appreciate any information you can forward.

Very respectfully.

Charles A. Reynolds
344 Valley St.
Willimantic Conn.

December 15, 1937

Mr. Charles A. Reynolds
344 Valley Street,
Willimantic, Conn.

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

You came to the right person when you asked about the two Willimantic cards because I happened to have discovered these. I picked them up hears ago in some junk in Boston and I have never seen any others since. I published them at the time in "The Numismatist".

The head side is the same as were used on a number of Providence cards and I think were made in Attleboro, Mass. The Keitteridge piece is copper and originally was silver plated. The O. Rudd was brass silver plated. I do not know whether this latter card belongs to Willimantic or not. Guttag placed it there on his own responsibility. I do not know of any other specimens of these two cards so you can see that they are pretty rare. I am herewith sending you rubbings of these two pieces.

Very truly yours,

HW:kj

Curator

Willimantic, Conn. December 16-1937

Mr. Howland Wood,

Broadway between 155th. & 156th. Sts.

New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I certainly want to thank you for your kindness in sending me the two rubbings of the two Willimantic cards. I have been on the trail of these two for over a year and this is the first definite bit of information that I have gathered.

I have checked all records in this locality in regard to the Dr. Kittreidge card and have picked up some information that I am glad to pass it along for your information. Some of this has been taken from town records and some from people here who knew him years ago.

" Dr. Oliver Kittreidge came to Willimantic or Mansfield some time during the 1860 period. He lived in Mansfield on Route 44 just beyond the " Houston Nurseries" (the house is still standing). He was a travelling practitioner, driving a high wheeled rubber tired cart. He wore a long light duster and invariably wore a high hat. He was married in Willimantic and his wife relatives still live in Willimantic. He was born in Lowell, Mass. and is supposed to have come here from some town in New Hampshire. Of his ability as a doctor, little is known, altho, those who remember him state that he was a great user of various herbs in the making of his medicines.

I have one story to the effect, that sometime during the 1870 period an epidemic of typhoid struck this locality, local doctors were at their wits end to cope with the situation when Dr. Kittreidge came into the picture and according to the older residents here succeeded in conquering the epidemic.

He died in Mansfield Nov. 10, 1894, age 79 years, of Bronchial Asthma Pneumonia : Vol. 5, Page 22 Mansfield Town records, and is buried in the Storrs Cemetery."

In regard to the Rudd card, I have checked the birth, death and land records of the towns of Mansfield and Windham and have not located a single bit of information, which leads me to believe that this card did not come from Willimantic; altho it is possible that he may have come and gone from here during this span. Am now checking in other towns and if I Find anything definite I shall be more than pleased to forward the information to you.

I have a friend here that I have been working with on these two cards. He saw the rubbings that you sent on and was highly elated at the progress we had made, and I am going to ask you if would send him the two rubbings that you sent me. The friends address is, Mr. Eric H. Lind, Gen. Secretary, Y.M.C.A. Willimantic, Conn. I have given him your address so you will no doubt here from him.

I have another request, if you ever do locate another one of these cards I would appreciate being given the opportunity of buying them. I don't know of anything that I ever wanted so badly as I do these two cards, chiefly onaccount of the sentiment attached to them as being issued from this part of the land.

Again thanking you, and assuring you that I will forward such additional as I may pick up I am

Very respectfully,

Charles A. Reynolds

344 Valley St. Willimantic, Conn.

December 18, 1937

Mr. Charles A. Reynolds
344 Valley Street
Willimantic, Conn.

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

I wish to thank you for the information given me concerning Dr. Kittreidge. I have received a letter from Mr. Lind and have answered his questions and have sent him rubbings of the two cards. As I stated to Mr. Lind I did not assign the O. Rudd to Willimantic--Guttag did. I have no information as to where O. Rudd was but I am inclined to believe he belonged in Providence.

Very truly yours,

HW:kj

Curator

Willimantic, Conn. Jan. 25-1938

The American Numismatic So.
Broadway, 155th & 156th Sts.
New York City.

Gentlemen:—

I have just read of the death of Mr. Howland Wood, Curator of the Society. His death is a great loss to the coin collecting fraternity.

Several weeks before his death I had some correspondence with him relative to two Willimantic tokens Gutteg. Nos. 2111 & 2113. These I am very desirous of procuring, for my own collection and also for the sentiment attached to them.

Will you kindly let me know the nearest of kin to him, or who will have charge of the sale of this material.

Thanking you, I am

Very respectfully.

C. A. Reynolds, Valley St.

February 1, 1938.

Mr. Charles A Reynolds,
344 Valley Street,
Willimantic, Conn.

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

Relative to the two Willimantic tokens that you desire, we do not have any for sale. The ones that Mr. Wood wrote you of were in the Society's collection and he had none for sale, either. About the only chance you would have of picking up these items would be to correspond with coin dealers and if they should turn up in their stock, you could probably procure them.

Very truly yours,

Wm. L. Clark,
Assistant Curator.

WLC ew